

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IGA-02
EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 AGRE-00 /065 W
-----23110Z 003903 /13

O 231040Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4753

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BG, US
SUBJECT: ADMIRAL KHAN'E MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY HABIB

REF: STATE 117990

1. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE REFTEL REPORTING
ON ADMIRAL KHAN'S TALK WITH UNDERSECRETARY HABIB AND
WANT TO underscore THE POINT WHICH WAS MADE DURING
THAT MEETING ABOUT BANGLADESH'S FOODGRAIN STOCK LEVEL.
TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE HERE, THERE IS NO
CONSENSUS AMONG DONORS THAT BANGLADESH SHOULD HAVE
STOCKS OF 900,000 TO ONE MILLION TONS. MOST CERTAINLY
A MAJORITY OF THE DONORS AGREE THAT THE BDG SHOULD NOT
REPEAT NOT HAVE ANYWHERE NEAR THIS LEVEL AT THE END OF THE
CALENDAR YEAR. KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS IN THE BANGLADESH
AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY AND ELSEWHERE AGREE THAT A YEAR END
STOCK LEVEL OF ABOUT 500,000 TONS WOULD BE CONFORTABLE
AND WOULD LEAVE ADEQUATE ROOM FOR STORAGE SPACE
AN EFFECTIVE DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT DRIVE OF AN ADDITIONAL
500,000 TONS.

2. I SUGGEST IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH KHAN WE
STRESS THE POINT THAT FIGURES PROVIDED BY THE MINISTRY
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OF FOOD AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM INDICATE THAT FOODGRAIN
LEVEL AT THE END OF DECMEMBER WILL BE ABOVE 500,000 TONS. THIS
IS ADEQUATE TO MEET NORMAL CONTINGENCIES AND WILL PERMIT A
VIGOROUS PROCUREMENT DRIVE THIS FALL AND WINTER WHICH WILL HAVE A
BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON DOMESTIC PRODUCTION.

3. YOU MIGHT ALSO REITERATE TO ADMIRAL KHAN, AS I HAVE

TOLD PRESIDENT ZIA AND ALL OTHER TOP BDG OFFICIALS, THAT
WE WILL KEEP THE FOODGRAIN SITUATION IN BANGLADESH
UNDER CLOSE STUDY AND WILL ASSIST TO THE UTMOST OF OUR
ABILITY IF THE NATION SHOULD SUFFER A NATURAL DISASTER
OR SERIOUS CROP FAILURE. GIVEN PRESENT FOODGRAIN
STOCK LEVELS AND SHIPMENTS ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE,
THERE WOULD BE ADEQUATE TIME, IF SUCH A DISASTER SHOULD
STRIKE, FOR US TO PROGRAM ADDITIONAL FOODGRAIN SHIPMENTS FOR
ARRIVAL LATE THIS CALENDAR YEAR WHEN IT WOULD ACTUALLY BE
REQUIRED.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DACCA02784
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770183-0022
Format: TEL
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770529/aaaaazcz.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: edc2428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 117990
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2411486
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADMIRAL KHAN'E MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY HABIB
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/edc2428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009